

Yamani: ARAMCO take-over effective Jan. 1 this year

JEDDAH, Saudi Arabia, April 12 (AFP). — Saudi Arabia will set up a national petroleum institute to manage and supervise the giant ARAMCO oil group after completing its take-over, the daily Okaz said today. It said the final agreement on the take-over of the remaining stake held by American oil corporations in ARAMCO had now been drawn up and would be signed shortly. The paper quoted Saudi Oil Minister Sheikh Ahmad Zaki Yamani as saying that the agreement would take effect retroactively as from Jan. 1, 1976. All ARAMCO profits as from that date would go to Saudi Arabia, he told the newspaper.

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King Hussein begins 2-day Washington visit on April 25

MAN (Agencies). — His Majesty King Hussein flies to Washington on April 25 for a two-day working visit at the invitation of President Carter.

The royal court said the King would be meeting President Carter, Secretary of State Cyrus Vance, Secretary of Defense Harold Brown, congressional leaders and other top officials.

The White House announced that the two leaders "will discuss fully all issues connected with the search for a just and durable settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict, as well as other matters of mutual interest in our bilateral relations."

President Carter is holding a series of meetings with Arab leaders to discuss overall peace agreement.

King Hussein meets governors and councillors here today

MAN (JNA). — His Majesty King Hussein will meet today with members of municipal councils and governors here in Amman.

Ethiopia accuses Sudan of "territorial aggression"

DIS ABABA, April 12 (R). — Ethiopian head of state Mengistu Hailemariam tonight accused Sudanese leader Jaafar Nimeri of aggression against the country and of violating the inviolable territorial integrity and unassailable unity of revolutionary motherland.

The charge, made in a national radio and television address, was the first accusation against Sudan of direct military involvement in Ethiopia.

Sudan previously has been accused for giving support to militant guerrillas fighting Eritrean troops in Ethiopia's Red Sea province of Eritrea and to anti-government forces in the border area between the two neighbouring states.

However, Omdurman Radio tonight broadcast a statement from the Sudanese government which said the Ethiopian accusations "are nothing but another vain attempt to conceal the Sudanese government's repeated efforts at the hands of the vanguard of the Ethiopian and Eritrean peoples."

The statement said the Sudanese authorities had only led the so-called aggression through the news media.

Informed sources in Addis Ababa said today that the Ethiopian military government had complained to the Organisation for African Unity that invading Sudanese troops were locked in battle deep inside Ethiopian territory.

In his speech tonight, Lt. Col. Mengistu accused President Nimeri "not only of aggression but also of providing military and tank fire support to the anti-people feudalistic Eritrean party calling itself Eritrean Democratic Union."

He said the alleged aggression was being carried out in even towns in northern and western Ethiopia.

All of the towns he mentioned — Tessenet, Om Hager, Nacala, Ababat, Setit-Humera, Abi Adi and Metemma — have been reported captured either by the Eritrean or secessionist movements operating in Eritrea.

JORDAN TIMES

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation

جوردين تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية «الراي»

Prince Hassan in Syria for integration talks

DAMASCUS, April 12 (R). — His Highness Crown Prince Hassan had talks here today with Syrian Prime Minister Abdul Rahman Khleifawi on closer relations between the two countries as part of their drive towards coordination and integration.

Prince Hassan arrived earlier today for an official three-day visit. Tomorrow, he will visit the site of the Euphrates Dam in northern Syria, the historical city of Palmyra, the war damaged town of Quneitra and an advanced military post.

During his three-day stay in Syria the Crown Prince will confer with President Hafez Assad. He is accompanied by the Minister of the Interior, Mr. Suleiman Arar, the Minister of Transport, Mr. Ali Al Suheimat, and the Dean of the Faculty of Arts at the University of Jordan, Dr. Abdul Karim Gharyabeh.

Prince Hassan's talks in Syria are expected to focus on economic matters. Besides visiting the Euphrates Dam, the Prince is scheduled to meet leaders of farmers' unions in Syria. Today he visited the Syrian Electronics Company where he was welcomed by the Syrian minister of industry, and the director general of the company who briefed Prince Hassan on the development of the company's activities.

The King will go to the U.S. after a visit to London, where he and Britain's Queen Elizabeth will take part in a special ceremony to mark the silver jubilees of their two reigns.

He will also have an opportunity to discuss the Middle East with British leaders.

The King's visit to the U.S. will follow Moscow talks between Kremlin leaders and President Hafez Assad of Syria, who flies to the Soviet capital next Monday.

Israeli cabinet approves Rabin as caretaker until elections

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, April 12 (Agencies). — The Israeli cabinet today approved yesterday's legal ruling that Yitzhak Rabin will have to stay on as caretaker until the May 17 general elections.

After the meeting, Foreign Minister Yigal Allon said it was important, at a time when "the international situation is on the move", that Mr. Rabin should continue to look after state affairs. Justice Minister Hayim Tzadok said, however, that he planned to ask experts to prepare an amendment to the constitution which would enable the cabinet to appoint a caretaker government during a period of caretaker administration.

Yesterday's ruling that Mr. Rabin should resign was based on a clause stipulating that a member of a caretaker government cannot step down.

But yesterday 58 per cent of the Mapam Central Committee voted to stay in the alliance for the six-month period, to enable the party to reassess its policies after the May 17 elections.

Political observers had predicted that a split in the labour alliance would make an election victory for the rightwing Likud opposition a real possibility.

Meanwhile, the Labour Party yesterday published a list of right "Fuera Nueva" movement flags were outside the Army Ministry, sounding their horns to the "viva Espana" (long live Spain) rhythm.

Political circles say the seething in the armed forces and in some political groups explains the government's strict security measures to avoid any pro-communist public demonstration last night when Party Secretary General Santiago Carrillo returned here from visit to Paris.

A police car was waiting for Mr. Carrillo's plane and drove him off to a safe destination. In Paris the evening before, Mr. Carrillo said he would make an official statement on his return to Madrid. There is no question of that now and party spokesmen have been silent.

The first public reaction to the party's legalisation came Sunday evening, when lines of cars carrying fuerza nueva and other rightwing militants and draped with Spanish and Phalangist flags drove noisily through Madrid with the rightists shouting threats against Mr. Carrillo and the communists.

Yesterday the Secretary General of the rightwing Popular Alliance, Manuel Fraga Iribarne, described the legalisation of the Communist Party as "the equivalent of a veritable coup d'etat".

Mr. Fraga Iribarne, Information Minister under the Franco regime and now the leading figure of the anti-communist right, is reported since Sunday to have been contacting military circles in favour of a regrouping of rightwing forces often identified with Francoism.



Her Highness Princess Alia stands with King Hussein, her bridegroom, Mr. Nasser Wasfi Merza, and his father, former Interior Minister Wasfi Merza, at her wedding ceremony at the Hashimiyeh guest palace Tuesday. (JNA photo).

Princess Alia marries son of former minister

AMMAN (Agencies). — His Majesty King Hussein's eldest daughter Princess Alia, 21, was today married to Nasser Wasfi Merza, 33, a member of the royal household.

The marriage ceremony took place at the Al Hashimiyeh guest palace here and was attended by the King, the Queen Mother Zein Al Sharaf, Prime Minister Mudar Badran and other senior officials.

The engagement of Princess Alia to Mr. Merza was officially announced Monday.

Princess Alia, the only child of King Hussein's first wife

Princess Dina and the first of his six children to marry, was born in Amman in 1956 and enrolled in 1973 at the University of Jordan in the English Department.

Mr. Merza was born into a well known Circassian family in 1945 and holds an M.A. degree in political science from the United States. Mr. Merza joined the armed forces in 1971 and worked for the office of Crown Prince Hassan in 1975.

Mr. Merza is the eldest son of Mr. Wasfi Merza, member of the Upper House and former Interior Minister.

candidates for the elections, in which choice places were set aside for ex-Foreign Minister Abba Eban and former Defence Minister Moshe Dayan.

The list was headed by Mr. Peres. Second place went to the present Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister, Mr. Yigal Allon.

Mr. Eban and Mr. Dayan, in third and seventh place respectively on the Labour list, looked virtually assured of election as well as on the way to comebacks on the Israeli political scene generally.

Prime Minister Rabin seemed to have a good chance of remaining in the Knesset (parliament), being given 20th place on the Labour list.

Mr. Eban is widely expected to regain the foreign affairs portfolio if Labour wins on May 17.

But the place given to Mr. Dayan came as a particular surprise, even though he was Mr. Peres' political mentor for years. Mr. Peres was long Mr. Dayan's principal aide.

The retired general was on the verge of leaving the Labour Party only a few weeks ago in opposition to what he considered as an excessive willingness by Mr. Rabin to give up occupied Arab territory in eventual negotiations.

But the Kremlin today strongly denied any part in the Zaire crisis, adding a warning to the West and China not to try to interfere.

Tass news agency in Moscow said allegations that the Soviet Union, Cuba -- which has troops in Angola -- or the Marxist rulers of that African country were involved were part of a slanderous campaign.

The State Department said that, although the new aid deal included a C-130 Hercules transport plane, no arms or ammunition are to be sent.

A Zaire request for such "lethal" combat supplies had been rejected, the U.S. said.

President Valery Giscard d'Estaing of France went on television in Paris to defend his dispatch of 11 air force planes to help airlift 1,500 Moroccan troops and equipment to Zaire.

But the planes would be recalled by the end of this week and "France has no intention of sending forces to take part in a Vietnam-style war," he said.

The French president said he had acted to reassure African nations and to meet subversion -- the invaders who entered Zaire's copper-rich Shaba province from Angola had recently been trained by outsiders in revolutionary war, he said.

Shelling mars unofficial ceasefire in Lebanon

BEIRUT, April 12 (Agencies). — Ground action in Lebanon's sensitive south stopped today as leftist-Palestinian forces and their rightwing adversaries appeared to observe an undeclared ceasefire.

Spokesmen for the two sides would not confirm that a truce had been arranged. But reports from the scene said that all military activity ceased at dawn today after overnight artillery exchanges on three fronts.

Palestinian guerrilla chief Yasser Arafat last Sunday issued instructions to forces of the leftist-Palestinian alliance to stop an offensive against rightist strongholds near the Israeli border which led to the capture of two major towns over the past two weeks.

There was speculation here that Syria had exerted pressure on the right to respond by stopping the bombardment of leftist positions.

Mr. Arafat's order was given after five-hour talks in Damascus with President Hafez Assad of Syria last Saturday.

However, according to a report by Agence France Press the two opposing factions continued their artillery battles in the central sector of southern Lebanon.

Reports from Saida said that Moslem-dominated Nabatieh had been under heavy bombardment since yesterday. Many homes and shops, particularly in central Nabatieh, were hit by 155 mm shells and phosphorous bombs.

Several fires broke out, leading remaining inhabitants to flee the town, the reports said.

In a separate development, fighters in the south were clearly disgruntled by the lack of an order to storm Marjayoun, and the hard-line Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) today criticised the order to top the fighting.

A PFLP leader issued a statement expressing "surprise that there should be pressures by the PLO to stop the fighting at a time when the joint forces were about to achieve a clear victory over the isolationist (rightist) forces."

Meanwhile, rival factions of a radical Palestinian organisation clashed briefly but fiercely in the Palestinian refugee camp of Sabra on the road to Beirut airport.

Informed sources said commanders of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command (PFLP-GC) had fought each other with automatic weapons before troops of the peace force intervened to stop the clash.

The PFLP-GC split into a pro-Syrian faction led by Ahmed Jibril and a pro-Israeli faction led by Abu Al Abbas last year and the two have been engaged in bitter fighting at least three times.

In a separate development Lt. Col. Sami Al Khatib has been appointed the new commander of the Arab peace-keeping force in Lebanon in a series of appointments announced after a cabinet meeting tonight.

Col. Khatib succeeds Col. Ahmed Al Haj, appointed commander of the force last November 4, who now becomes Director General of Internal Security Forces.

The former Internal Security Director, Mr. Hisham Al Sha'ar becomes Director General of the Central Inspection Department.

The cabinet also decided to give government employees a 20 per cent pay increase in view of the high cost of living.

Col. Antoine Dahdah, Director General of Public Security, was replaced by Emir Farouk Abul Lama'a, a lawyer.

Col. Khatib was one of a number of army intelligence officers tried under former President Suleiman Franjeh on charges of abusing his office.

He was later acquitted and reinstated.

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Salary up to JD 240,000 per month.

CASHIER

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World Bank deputy visits potash site

AMMAN (JNA). — The Deputy President of the World Bank Tuesday visited work sites of the potash project at Ghor Nuzeira near the Dead Sea. He heard an explanation of the work involved for the first stage of the project, as well as plans for the extraction and production of potash.

The World Bank has contributed \$1 million for the \$8 million project. The remaining \$7 million is being raised by the Jordanian government and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

Director General of the Arab Potash Company Ali Al Khawash said discussions with the World Bank delegation during the past two days dealt with participation in the \$290 million second stage.

The World Bank delegation, which arrived in Amman last Tuesday, held talks with Jordanian officials over financing Jordan's five-year plan.

KING HUSSEIN VISITS ARMY DIVISION

AMMAN (JNA). — His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday went on inspection tour of the Fourth Royal Mechanized Division and a number of border army units.

His Majesty was accompanied by Prime Minister Mudar Badran, several ministers, Chief of the Royal Court Sharif Abdul Hamid Sharaf, Commander-in-Chief of the Jordanian Armed Forces Lt. Gen. Sharif Id Ibn Shaker, Court Minister Amer Khammash, Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ibn Badran and a number of high ranking officers.

Earlier in the morning Premier Badran and the ministers were briefed by Lt. Gen. Zaid Shaker on the organization and modernization of the armed forces.

His Majesty King Hussein looks over military equipment of the Fourth Royal Mechanized Division during an inspection tour Tuesday. (JNA photo).

The bank has stressed its desire to give Jordan up to \$40 million of loans in the next two years to finance the potash project, as well as a project to boost Amman's water supplies.

Al Majali named for board of U.N. University

AMMAN (JNA). — United Nations Secretary General Kurt Waldheim has chosen Dr. Abdul Salam Majali, Minister of Education, as a member of the United Nations University board of trustees.

Dr. Waldheim sent a cable to this effect to Dr. Majali who cabled back accepting the post and thanking the U.N. secretary general for his trust in him.

The 24-member board of trustees is the ruling body. The period of membership of 12 of these will expire on May 2, after which a further 12 members will serve for six years.

The ninth session of the board will be held in Tokyo in December 1977.

RSS OFFICIAL LEAVES FOR SOLAR ENERGY MEETING

AMMAN (JNA). — The Director of the Mechanical Engineering Department at the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) Dr. Mahmoud Odeh, Monday left for Paris to participate in a seminar on solar energy.

This seminar, put on by the United Nations University, will be attended by a number of experts, who will discuss the use of solar energy in rural societies in the developing world. The seminar will take place from April 14-15.

PLO PAPER TO GO ON SALE HERE

AMMAN, (R). — Jordan has relaxed restrictions on publications by the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) to allow circulation here of a political monthly issued in Damascus.

The Jordan headquarters of the Palestine Liberation Army (PLA) the military wing of the PLO, announced in a circular letter that the magazine Sawt Falastin (the Voice of Palestine) is now on sale here.

The relaxation follows the beginning of a dialogue between Jordan and the PLO this year, and the meeting in Cairo last month between King Hussein and PLO chief Yasser Arafat.

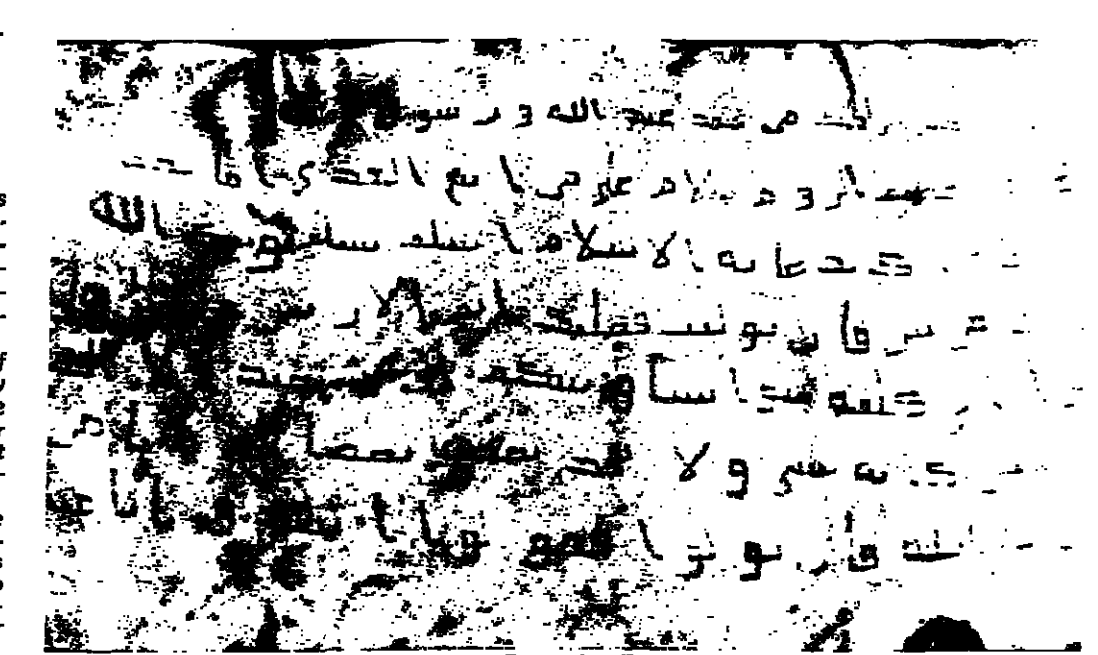
GAZA MAYOR ARRIVES IN ABU DHABI

ABU DHABI, April 12 (R). — Haj Rashad Al Shawwa, Mayor of occupied Gaza, arrived here today in search of funds to support his cash-starved town after a short visit to Amman.

Haj Shawwa, who came at the invitation of United Arab Emirates (UAE) President Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, said on arrival that the inhabitants of the occupied territories were in need of moral and material support from other Arabs to help them withstand Israeli pressures.

A delegation from Jericho obtained a grant of one million UAE dirham (\$150,000) from Sharjah ruler Sheikh Sultan bin Mohammed Al Qassimi, when it visited the UAE recently, and Hebron Mayor Fahd Qawasmeh is due here shortly on a Gulf tour.

Haj Shawwa left Amman Monday after a one-day visit during which he discussed with Premier Mudar Badran the requirement of Gaza.



The Prophet Mohammad sent this letter to Byzantine Emperor Heraclius urging him to convert to Islam. Now this historical document is to be presented to the people of Jordan on the occasion of King Hussein's silver jubilee. It will be kept in Al Hashimiyyah Mosque, to be built soon.

Seminar delegates visit housing projects

AMMAN (JNA). — Delegations taking part in the Arab Housing Seminar visited a number of housing projects in Jordan Monday.

They first visited the Marka project, which consists of 1,000 housing units costing JD 3 million. They also visited Al Hashimiyyah Workers Village, which also consists of 1,000 units costing JD 2.5 million.

During a visit to Yarmouk University, President Adnan Badran briefed them on the foundation of the university and its future programmes, including the building of a permanent site.

Later, Arab delegations visited King Talal Dam, where final work is proceeding before its water is used for irrigation purposes.

Earlier, the two committees at the seminar debated papers

King announces on T.V. Letter from Prophet Mohammad proves real

AMMAN, (R). — A letter from the Prophet Mohammad urging a seventh century Byzantine emperor to embrace Islam is to go on display in a mosque here.

The document has been declared authentic by experts in London, King Hussein said on Jordan Television last night, adding he now wished to put it on display.

The letter, which called on the Emperor Heraclius to embrace Islam, was written down by scribes on gazelle hide and marked with the Prophet's seal, which bore the inscription: "Mohammed, rasulallah" (the Prophet of God).

Mohammad himself could not write.

The King said the letter was in the possession of his grandfather, King Abdullah, who died in 1951.

It had since been kept in a safe place until experts at the Department of Oriental Manuscripts at the British Library in London could confirm its authenticity, the King said.

The letter will be kept at the newly built Al Hashimiyyah Palace until a special mosque is built where it will be displayed to the faithful.

A historian said here the letter was delivered to the Emperor Heraclius by a messenger named Dahya Al Kalbi when he was in Jerusalem celebrating the return of the cross to the holy city.

Jordan's Hashemite royal family is descended from the Prophet's daughter Fatima, the wife of his cousin, Ali Ibn Abi Taleb.

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THE AMERICAN WOMEN OF AMMAN

Will meet on Wednesday, April 13 at 10 a.m. in the ballroom of the Jordan Intercontinental Hotel.

Speaker Dr. M. Ghoul on "Some Aspects of Islam".

EEC TEAM ARRIVES APRIL 25

AMMAN, (R). — A European Economic Community (EEC) delegation will visit Jordan on April 25 to discuss community aid, official sources said here Monday.

Jordan, Syria and Egypt each signed trade and aid agreements with the EEC last year.

The accord with Jordan provided for aid worth \$48 million to help finance the five-year plan.

Exchange Rates

Following are the official exchange rates in effect at the start of today's business day, as set by the Central Bank of Jordan.

The first column is how much you would receive in Jordanian fils for selling a unit of the foreign currency, while the second column denotes how much it would cost you to buy a unit of the foreign currency:

U.K. sterling	571.0	577.0
U.S. dollar	331.0	333.0
German mark	139.1	139.5
French franc	66.8	67.0
Swiss franc	130.9	131.3
Italian lira (for every 100)	37.4	37.6
Saudi riyal	93.6	93.8
Lebanese pound	109.4	109.6
Syrian pound	81.8	82.0
Iraqi dinar	942.0	950.0
Kuwaiti dinar	1,150.0	1,155.0
Libyan dinar	800.0	820.0
Egyptian pound	470.0	471.0
UAE dirham	85.2	85.5

NATIONAL NOTES

* AMMAN. — The adviser to the Kuwaiti Crown Prince, Dr. Abdul Aziz Kamel, in due here for a week-long visit April 17 to participate in activities organised by the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs and to deliver a number of lectures on Islamic thought.

* AMMAN. — Soviet chess expert, Mr. Vladimir Karrasov, will arrive here on a week-long visit next week at the invitation of the Royal Jordanian Chess Club.

* DER'A. — A delegation from the Ramtha agricultural cooperative left here Tuesday for a three-day visit to the Syrian governorate of Der'a at the invitation of the Syrian Farmers Association to look over agricultural projects underway there.

* RIYADH. — Public Security Director Maj. Gen. Ghazi Arabiyat, here for a security conference, was received Monday evening by Saudi Minister of Interior Prince Nayef and discussed with him cooperation between the Saudi and Jordanian public security departments and the free movement of Bedouins between the two countries.

* AMMAN. — The Secretary General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Kamal Humud, received the Chilean charge d'affaires in Amman Tuesday.

Badran meets tourist heads

AMMAN (JNA). — Premier Mudar Badran Monday received the Secretary General of the World Tourism Organisation (WTO) and the Commissioner General of Tourism in Belgium and discussed with them tourist cooperation.

The WTO head stressed his organization's readiness to provide Jordan with the necessary expertise to implement tourist projects in Jordan.

The Belgian tourist commissioner also said his office is ready to cooperate with the Jordanian Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities to boost the number of Belgian tourists here.

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Solar powered desalination plant will soon begin operation in Aqaba

By Rami G. Khouri
Special to the Jordan Times

Jordan takes a small technological leap forward this summer when the Royal Scientific Society starts operating its experimental solar powered desalination plant in Aqaba.

The small plant, designed and built by the West German company Dornier System, will take in sea water and produce four cubic metres of fresh water per day when it starts operating in July. The size of the plant is purposely small, as the Royal Scientific Society's aim in setting it up now is to

system," and works exactly the reverse of a home refrigerator.

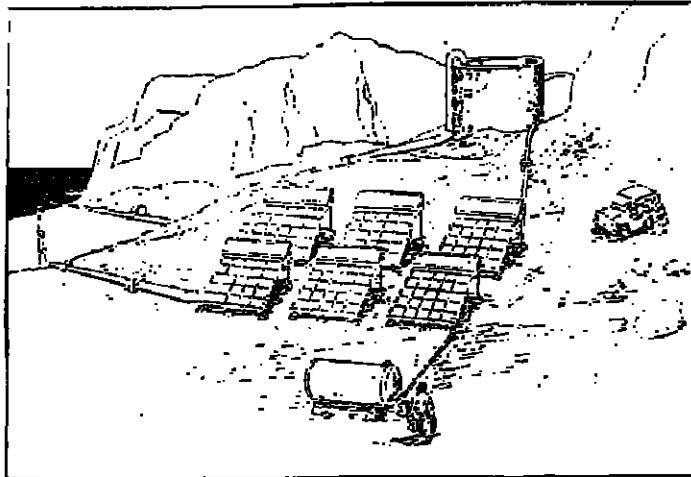
The heart of the unit is a five-metre-long, 20-cm-wide aluminium slab along whose underside runs a small pipe. The pipe is filled with pressurised liquid from gas (the same as in a refrigerator). The slab-and-pipe section is tilted upwards at a 15-degree angle.

The sun's rays strike the surface of the aluminium and heat up the from gas. The liquid gas turns into a vapour and rises to the top of the unit, where the sea water is waiting in a tank. The hot gas

the sun again to go back up and heat more water. The system is closed, and keeps running as long as the sun is shining.

In a refrigerator, the from gas takes heat out of the ice-box to leave a cold area. In this desalination system, it takes the sun's heat and transfers it to heat up the sea water.

According to Mr. Mohammed Bal'awi, head of the solar energy section within the mechanical engineering department of the RSS and the man in charge of the desalination unit, a solar powered pump



This sketch shows six "modules" such as those that will form the heart of the Aqaba solar powered desalination plant. The modules are 5x5 metres each. The station at Aqaba will have 20 modules.

niun panels that collect the sun's heat, and send it out the other end at an average temperature of 60 degrees Centigrade.

The Aqaba solar powered desalination plant has been set up under a peculiar contractual agreement between the RSS and the West German Agency for Technical Cooperation. The RSS has paid the JD 80,000 cost of the buildings for the desalination scheme, while the German government has put up the approximately JD 120,000 for the equipment and personnel costs for three years.

According to the contract signed between the RSS and the German agency, the RSS will run the project for three years, after which it is to submit a final report on the commercial production feasibility of the system.

If the system is then to be manufactured and sold to Arab governments, the RSS would have the right to do this, while Dornier System would provide units for other customers throughout the world.

Mr. Bal'awi says the potential of solar power is tremendous, and includes using it for heating and cooling buildings, power generation, pumping and desalination.

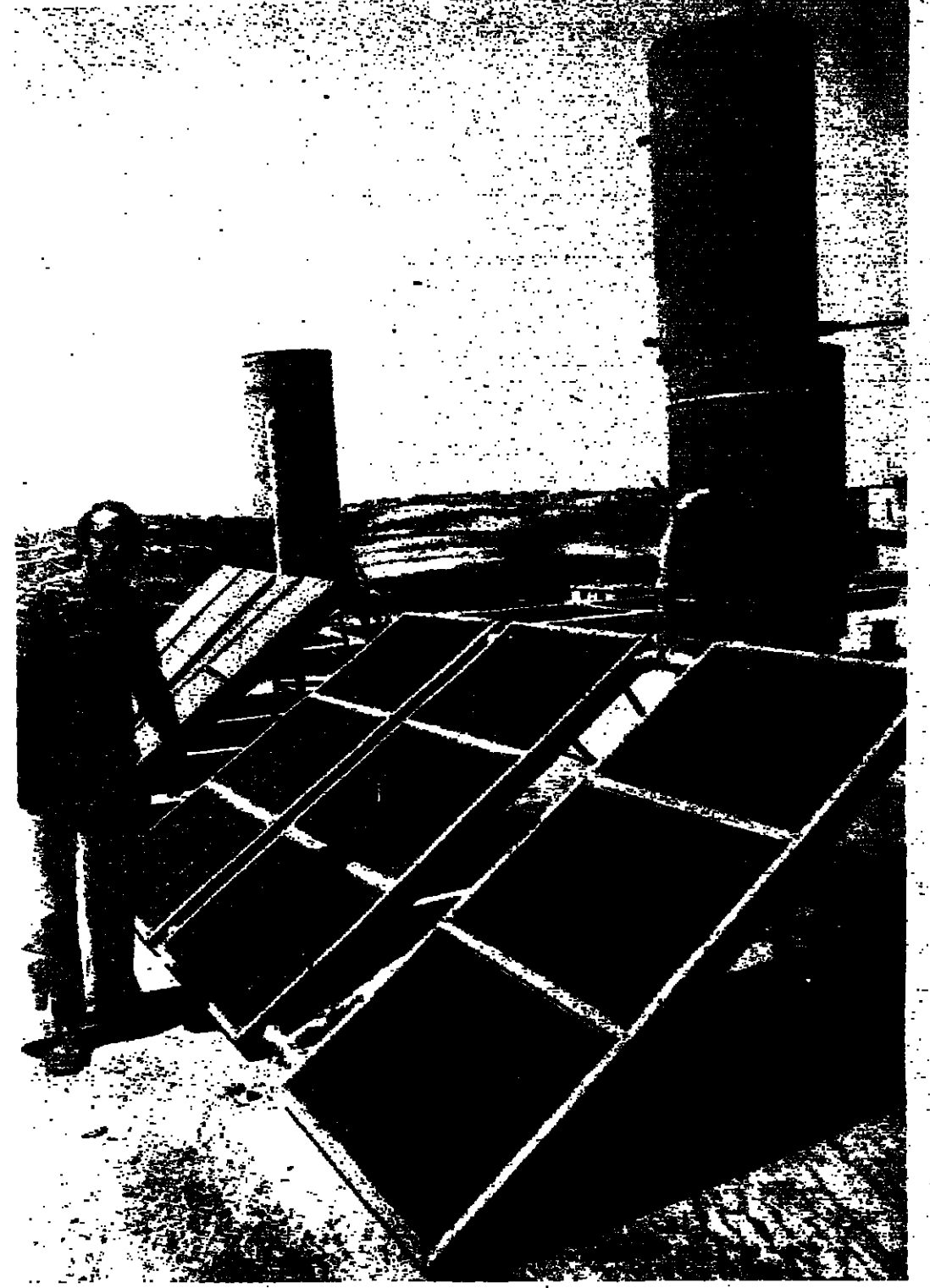
The RSS already has plans to start research into generating electricity by using solar heat, as well as to use the sun's plentiful energy here in Jordan to heat buildings in winter and cool them in summer.

The Director of the RSS mechanical engineering department, Dr. Mahmoud S. Audi, explains that Aqaba is located in the second hottest region of the globe. Solar powered energy research that is perfected in Jordan, he says, can be transferred virtually intact for use throughout the Gulf region, where climatic and solar conditions are similar.

Dr. Audi also explains that the idea behind carrying out this kind of research in solar energy or other fields is to take technology that has been developed elsewhere and adapt it for use in the Middle East.

"We're not so interested in inventing things," he says. "The transfer of technology is our major objective, or what we call adaptation by modification. Our aim is to refine this kind of solar power system so that it is applicable for use throughout the Middle East, and we're just at the beginning of the road in this field."

There are some hopes that the solar energy section of the RSS can develop into a regional Arab research centre. Arab governments have already given substantial financial assistance to the RSS, and the fruits of research at the RSS are starting to filter out to other Arab states. Dr. Audi himself has recently made a tour of some Arab countries to give them technical advice on their own solar energy research programmes.



Mr. Bal'awi stands next to the solar powered home water heaters being tested on the roof of the RSS mechanical engineering building in Amman. Water from the top tank goes into pipes that run up the length of the three collecting panels, and is stored in the bottom tank at a temperature of about 60 degrees centigrade.



This is the size of the desalination plant about 6 kms. from Aqaba. It is presently under construction.

refine the Dornier technology and adapt it to local needs, both in Jordan and throughout the Middle East.

The system itself is only designed for an optimum, economical output of some 24 cubic metres per day, and is intended to serve small communities along the seaside or inland near sources of brackish (salty) water.

The Saudi Arabian Coast Guard has already expressed an interest in having the RSS adapt the system for their use, and it is also practical for such isolated communities as mineral exploration teams, coastal research groups or small seaside military outposts.

The system, remarkably simple, called a "solar heat pipe

transfers its heat to the water tank, where the sea water is heated and reaches a temperature of more than 80 degrees Centigrade.

At that temperature, the water vaporises. The water vaporises and runs up against a cooler condensing surface, where it is condensed back into liquid water. The end product is fresh water, which then runs off via a channel to be stored in a collection tank.

It then has to be "blended" with some mineral salts to make it drinking water.

The from gas that is initially heated by the sun to heat the salt water turns back down to its liquid form, falls back down to the bottom of the aluminium pipe, and is heated by

will also be installed next year to draw sea water into the unit (the pump would be run by a turbine that is powered by the solar heated from gas).

Windmills may also be installed to run the pumps and help make the system totally automated.

When it is completed within the coming few months, the desalination plant, located along the coastal strip about six kilometres south of Aqaba, will have 15 "modules". Each module will be made up of 20 of the aluminium slabs, and each in effect will be a small self-contained desalination plant in itself.

Mr. Bal'awi also explains that 350 measuring points have been built into the project to collect data on temperature, water salinity, flow rates, pressure, solar radiation, humidity, and winds. The data will be fed into a small computer on the site, where the RSS will eventually have four resident engineers on duty to tabulate the results and keep a constant watch on the efficiency of the system.

Mr. Bal'awi also explains that the aim of the RSS in setting up such an experimental station is partly to build up a team of experienced engineers who can carry out more research on solar energy.

The RSS has another experimental solar power research project underway, though it is not so romantically located. Housed on the roof of the RSS mechanical engineering department in Amman are two solar powered home water heaters.

These small units take in water at an average temperature of 20 degrees Centigrade, simply pass it through pipes that are connected to aluminium



Mr. Mohammed Bal'awi explains how the desalination plant's aluminium slabs collect the rays of the sun and heat the from gas in the tube which can be seen on the bottom of the slab.



Dr. Mahmoud S. Audi uses a diagram of one of the modules at the Aqaba desalination plant to explain how the system works. (Photos by Rami G. Khouri).

Oil wildcatters take rigs wherever they can make a profitable strike

NEW ORLEANS, LA. (CSM). — Deep in the Bayou country, in swamps where mosquitoes and alligators abound, Ken Martin is drilling for oil and gas.

Mr. Martin, president of Martin Exploration Company, is a "wildcatter." As such, he is one of some 10,000 people who independently scan charts and try to find oil and gas with the limited resources they can marshal from small investors. His drilling costs, which will run \$50 million this year, are small compared to the billions spent by the industry giants.

However, as an oil producer, he is not immune to federal, state, and local regulations, and the volumes of rules which emanate from the regulatory agencies are Mr. Martin's largest complaint.

"Our biggest problem," he states, "is that we don't know the rules and don't have time to learn them." He further explains that he and the three other entrepreneurs who make up Martin Exploration can't keep up with rules published by the Federal Energy Administration, Federal Power Commission, and Environmental Protection Agency.

He adds, "with all the noise coming out of Washington, it's impossible to predict what the price of natural gas will be."

Since Mr. Martin buys short-term leases of three years or less, it is difficult to know if a well is going to be commercially successful even if it finds oil and gas. "Right now," he tells a visitor, "I'm buying

leases on property based on the assumption the price of natural gas will rise to \$3 per million cubic feet (mcf) on an interstate basis."

Currently the price of natural gas is frozen at \$1.44 per mcf, although it is up to \$2 per mcf within Louisiana. President Carter has indicated he wants to decontrol gradually the price of gas at the wellhead.

Meanwhile, men like Mr. Martin scour maps and charts looking for suitable places to plunk down drilling rigs. Since most of Mr. Martin's wildcat sites are in the swamps, he brings the drilling rigs in by barge. And, since he usually tries to find oil and gas around the periphery of big fields depleted by the major oil companies, he has a good track record.

However, in Louisiana, there are not a lot of intrastate gas pipelines -- those that transport oil or gas only within the state. There are a lot of interstate pipelines which ship the oil and gas north.

In one recent gas find, Mr. Martin explains, it would have cost an additional \$25 million to transport the gas to a pipeline which ships it only to Louisiana customers. Instead, at a fraction of the cost, he hooks up to a pipeline which transports the gas to northern customers.

Since expenses eat up capital quickly, Mr. Martin keeps a tight hand on his drilling programme's costs. A typical well costs \$700,000-\$800,000 to drill and get into produc-

tion. Occasionally, a shallow well can be dug for a minimum of \$50,000. This is for onshore operations. Drilling offshore is too expensive for the small wildcatters.

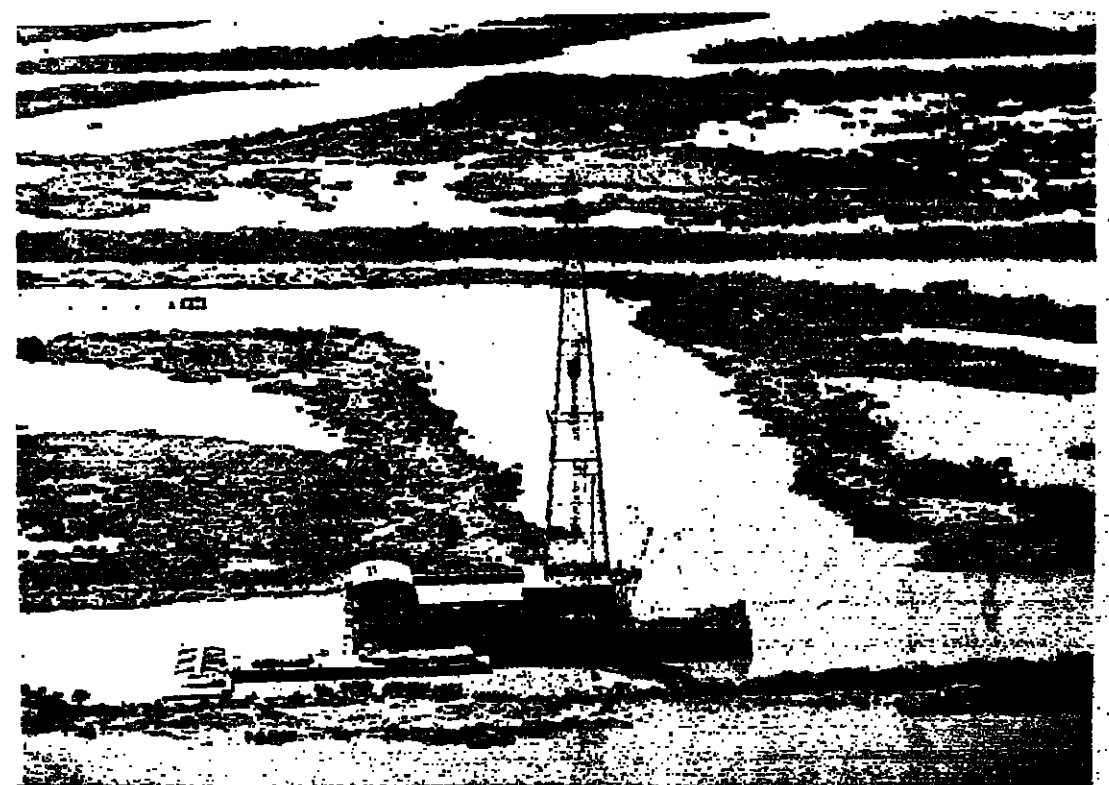
A major expense is the cost of rights from the owner of the land where the well is to be drilled. The landowner usually receives \$75-\$100 per acre plus 25 per cent of the revenue from any oil found.

An operator must have a record of success to attract new investors. Quips Mr. Martin, "an investor only remembers your last drilling deal, so the last one better be successful."

To date, Mr. Martin has struck pay dirt more often than not. According to a preliminary prospectus for a new drilling programme (underwritten by Merrill Lynch), Mr. Martin has found oil or gas in 38 out of 55 holes he has sunk. For the average investor in his 1973-74 programme, the net return on investment for the life of the oil and gas field will be 235 per cent, excluding income taxes and depletion allowance deductions.

Even more spectacular was his 1976 drilling programme, which an engineering report estimated could return up to 600 per cent of the initial investment.

However, these returns are the exception, not the rule. The number of oil and gas wildcatters has dwindled, says Wayne Blankenship, an associate of Mr. Martin's. There are only about 10,000 wildcatters left. There used to be more than 20,000.



Swampy area in Louisiana, an area where oil wildcatters are active.

Recent evidence implies Antarctic ice sheet may trigger another ice age within a century or two

ROSS ICE SHELF, Antarctica. (CSM). — The seaward edge of the Ross Ice Shelf is a ragged cliff torn from ancient glacial ice.

For 500 miles it runs, a bluish-white barrier abruptly rising hundreds of feet above the vast plain of winter sea ice that still clings to its icy hem.

This seamed and corniced wall is the outermost boundary of a floating glacier the size of Spain. It is more than 1,000 feet thick.

Today the ancient ice stands silently, so it is difficult to picture it as an active agent in the drama of earth's changing climate. Yet a number of scientists suspect it could play such a role.

The possibility that the sudden growth of the Antarctic ice sheet may trigger an ice age has been given new weight by recent evidence which matches small changes in the wobble, tilt, and orbit of the earth with the ebb and flow of past climates.

Until recently this astronomical theory for climate change had been dismissed because it can account for only a one-degree difference in the global temperature average. The variation between an ice age and interglacial is closer to 5 degrees C.

But fossil evidence reported last month by John Imbrie of Brown University, James D. Hays of Columbia University's Lamont-Doherty Geological Ob-

servatory, and Nicholas J. Shackleton of Cambridge University in England reveals an unmistakable correlation between climate changes for the past 150,000 years and astronomical cycles.

As a result climatologists are being forced to consider various ways that small variations in sunlight might cause benign interglacials or harsh ice ages. A prime suspect is the fluctuation of the Antarctic ice sheet.

"Earth's climate system must somehow amplify these small effects," Dr. Imbrie mused during a telephone interview. "The Antarctic ice sheets may very well be the amplifier. They may be the reason the climate is so sensitive."

The basic reasoning is as follows. In some as yet unknown way a slight dimming of the rate the sun's heat reaches the earth's surface causes the Antarctic ice sheet to begin growing rapidly. Then this increasing ice cover acts like a vast radiator. It beams heat into outer space more effectively than did the sea it covers.

This, in turn, alters the global weather patterns and so touches off glacial growth in the Northern Hemisphere. Thus the world might plunge into another 90,000 odd years of ice age.

The astronomical theory predicts that the natural trend for the next 23,000 years is growing glaciation. In the last 6,000 years the sub-Antarctic seas have been cooling steadily, scientific studies have found. Already the water here is halfway to its ice-age temperature.

Although scientists measure climatic intervals in thousands

of years, the evidence suggests that dramatic climate changes occur within a century or two.

According to Terry Hughes, a glaciologist from the University of Maine, this is another reason to look to ice sheets as the instrument for climate change.

Unlike changes in earth's orbit -- which occur gradually over thousands of years -- glaciers can change their rate of growth or contraction quite suddenly. From a growth rate of a few metres a year glaciers have been known to suddenly start growing at kilometres per year and then to begin to retreat just as unpredictably.

This is Dr. Hughes' fifth season in Antarctica. He has come to study the complicated dynamics of the last remaining giant ice sheets. Already he thinks he may understand how an ice age ends abruptly.

This involves giant ice shelves like the one covering Ross Sea. From work that his colleague, George Denton, has done, Dr. Hughes feels sure that similar ice shelves covered much of the Arctic and North Atlantic during the last age.

These shelves seem to act like corks, keeping the tremendous ice sheets from melting. But under certain circumstances, he believes, "calving bays" would form. These are places in ice shelves where the glacier ice is broken up into armadas of icebergs.

"Hudson's Bay was once a large calving bay," says Dr. Hughes.

And, he continues, some evidence suggests that the Ross Ice Shelf itself might be developing a calving bay. There is an indication that the point where the shelf is grounded is retreating. One of the neces-

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GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES H. GOREN
AND OMAR SHARIF
© 1977 by Chicago Tribune

both vulnerable. South leads.

NORTH
♠ K 9 5 4
♥ Q J 10
♦ Q 6 5
♣ 9 7 3 2

EAST
♠ A 8 7 3
♥ 8 7 6
♦ K 9 2
♣ Q 10 8

WEST
♠ A 4 2
♥ A 10 7 3
♦ A K 6 4
♣ J

South West North East
Pass 2 Pass
Pass Pass Pass
Opening lead: Queen of ♣.

The female of the species might be more dangerous than the male among certain nature's creations, but it does not hold true at the bridge table. Call us male chauvinists if you like, but women have been able to match the male over the green baize. However, it is hard to improve on the technique of South on this hand. In last year's Women's Team Olympiad in Montevideo, North's choice of a heart lead in preference to introducing the spade suit meets with our wholehearted approval. With a hand worth only one bid, the most constructive move is to raise trumps when possible rather than introduce a new suit, as North had three good trumps and a ruffing value,

so any response other than a raise would be a dereliction of duty.

West led the queen of diamonds and declarer, Sandra Landy of England, made the

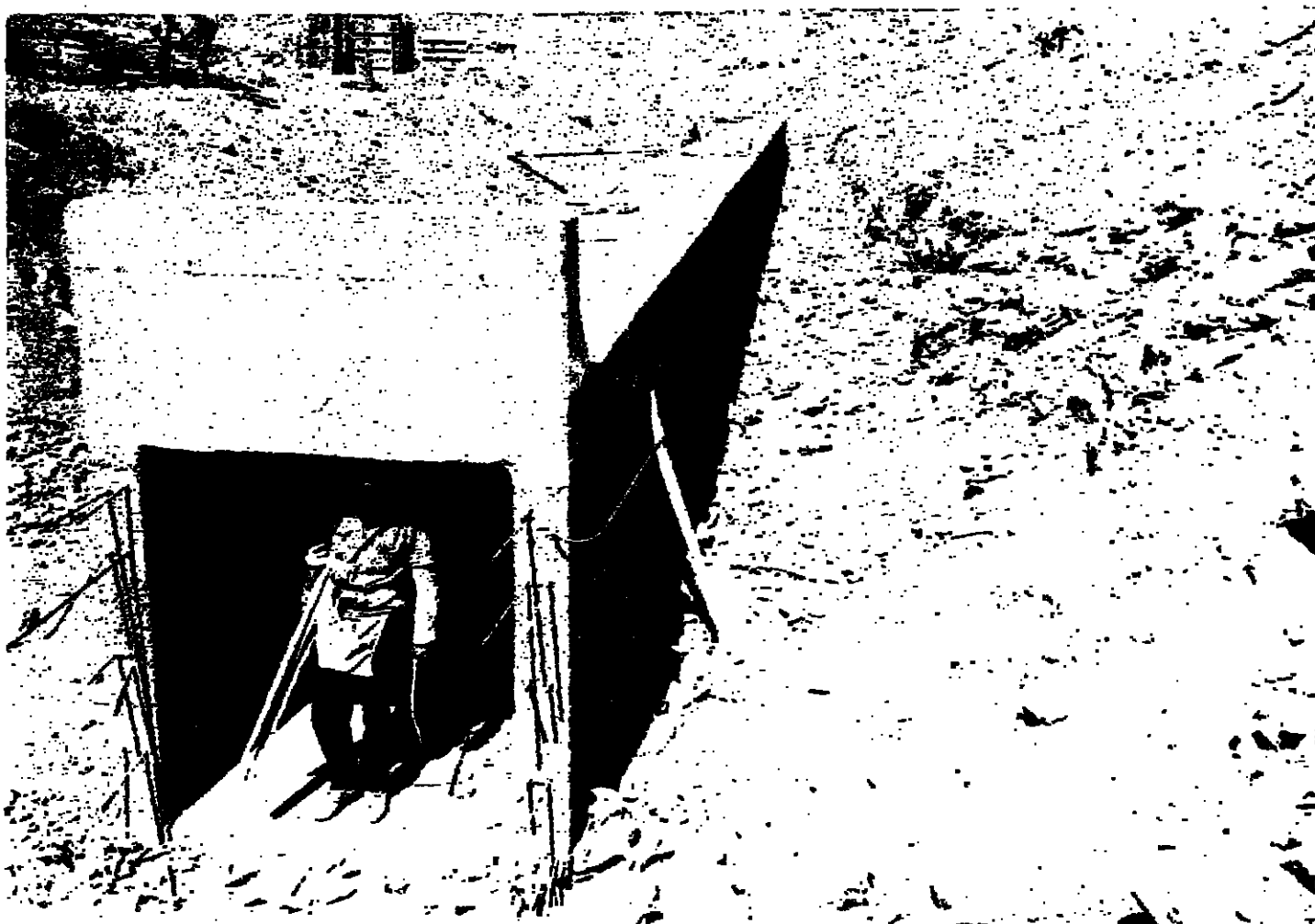
correct technical play when she chose to hold up once. West promptly shifted to a trump, won in dummy. Since trumps rated to break 4-2, declarer decided she couldn't afford the luxury of ruffing both her diamond losers in dummy. Instead, she cashed the ace of diamonds, ruffed a diamond in dummy and then cashed the table's remaining trump honor. She returned to her hand with the ace of clubs to draw trumps.

When the king of hearts brought forth both outstanding trumps, declarer had slight misgivings about the line she had chosen. However, she was now committed to the partial elimination, so she continued with king of clubs and another.

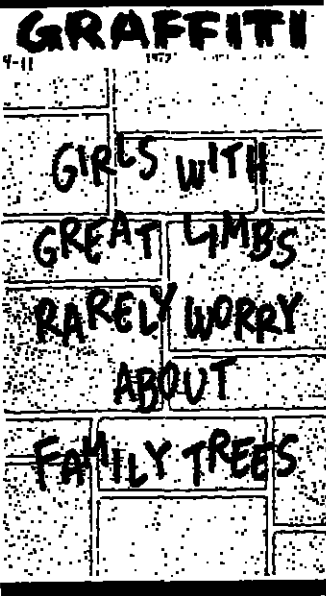
One diamond ruff had done the job. When East won the third round of clubs she had been reduced to nothing but spades. The best she could do was lead ace of spades, and continue the suit. So declarer's remaining diamond went on the king of spades, and the contract was fulfilled.

Note that declarer would have gotten home even had trumps divided 4-2. All she would have had to do was draw the last trump before ending play East.

THE PAGE FIVE FEATURE PHOTO



NEW DRAINS FOR AMMAN AIRPORT -- A worker emerges from the drainage tunnel under construction at Amman's airport. The system is about 2 kms. long and will facilitate drainage of the runways. (Photo by Fernando Francis).



TONIGHT'S T.V. FEATURE

PARTRIDGE FAMILY:
HATE THY NEIGHBOUR

A neighbour complains about the noise made by the Partridge family who set out to convince her about its reasons.

BEN HALL:
CRUEL SEASON

Living in an arid area, Ben and his wife decide to move to a more suitable area.

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OUT AND ABOUT

ELITE RESTAURANT

Fires Wings Hotel, Jabal Al Luweibdeh. Tel. 22103/4. Choice of THREE set menus daily for lunch, and a la carte. Open 12-3 p.m. and 7-12 p.m. Specialty: steaks.

QUICK MEAL

Restaurants for broadest chicken and light snacks. Take home, lunch or dinner. Jabal Amman, First Circle. Tel. 21083. Jabal Al Luweibdeh, Hawuz Circle. Tel. 30646. Jabal Al Hussein, near Jerusalem Cinema. Tel. 21781. Also in Zarqa and Irbid.

CHINESE RESTAURANT

First Chinese restaurant in Jordan. First Circle, Jabal Amman, near the Ahliyah School or CMS. Tel. 38968. Open daily from noon to 3:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. to midnight. Also take home service - order by phone.

THE DIPLOMAT

First Circle, Jabal Amman. Tel. 25592. Open from 7 a.m. to 1 a.m. Restaurant, coffee-shop, snack bar and patisserie. Oriental and European specialties.

For advertising in above columns contact "Sout Wa Soura" Tel. 38689. Open from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 4-6 p.m.

FORECAST FOR TUESDAY, APRIL 12, 1977

Your Daily HOROSCOPE

from the CARROLL RIGHTER INSTITUTE

GENERAL TENDENCIES: The daytime is good for putting in motion a new and progressive plan of action whereby you can have more success at your chosen vocation. Be more alert of worldly affairs. Also, good for engaging in humanitarian activities.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Contact congenials and show more affection for them, thereby deepen relationship for the future. Strive for increased success.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Contact influential persons who can be of assistance to you in ventures of importance. Be careful of those who prevaricate.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Step out of that rut and make new contacts than can lead to greater happiness. Do something thoughtful for your mate.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) Put those new ideas to work that will improve your financial affairs. Show more interest in mate and be happier.

LEO (July 22 to Aug. 21) Know what is expected of you by associates and try to please them more. Try to become more active in civic matters in the days ahead.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Handle work ahead of you in a most modern way and get excellent results. Be more cooperative with co-workers.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Use your spare time to be of assistance to persons you like and become a happier person. Express your special skills.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Set up appointments with friends and study inter-related subjects that could lead to new interests that are profitable.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) The planets are most favorable now for being able to produce more and become more successful in the future.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Find some new project that will help you have a greater abundance. Make plans to improve your surroundings.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) If you do something to improve your health and appearance you can make this a most interesting day. Show that you have wisdom.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Listen to the sound advice given you by an expert in your line of endeavor and then plan the future wisely. Be logical.

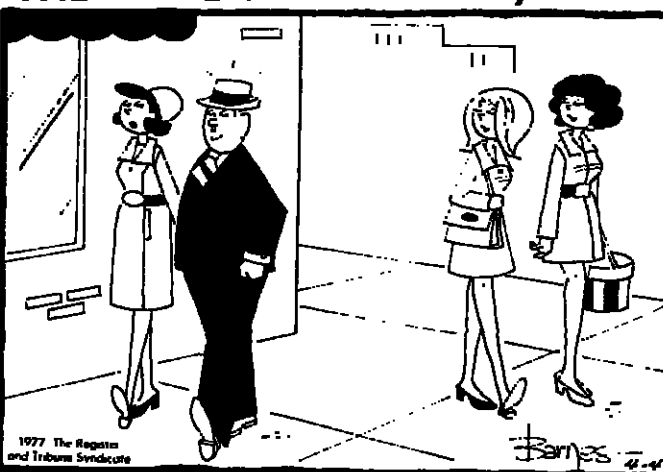
LAUGHS FROM EUROPE



DENMARK
Erik Bencke

"It was our very first quarrel, Mother - honestly, I never realized that he had such a vicious temper!"

THE BETTER HALF. By Barnes

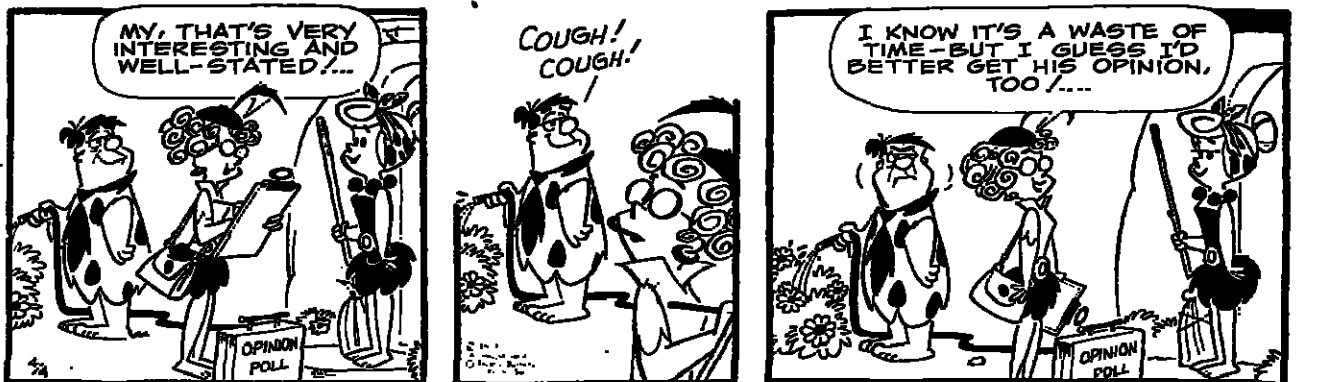


"Oh, pull your chest back in... they didn't wink at you, they winked at each other."

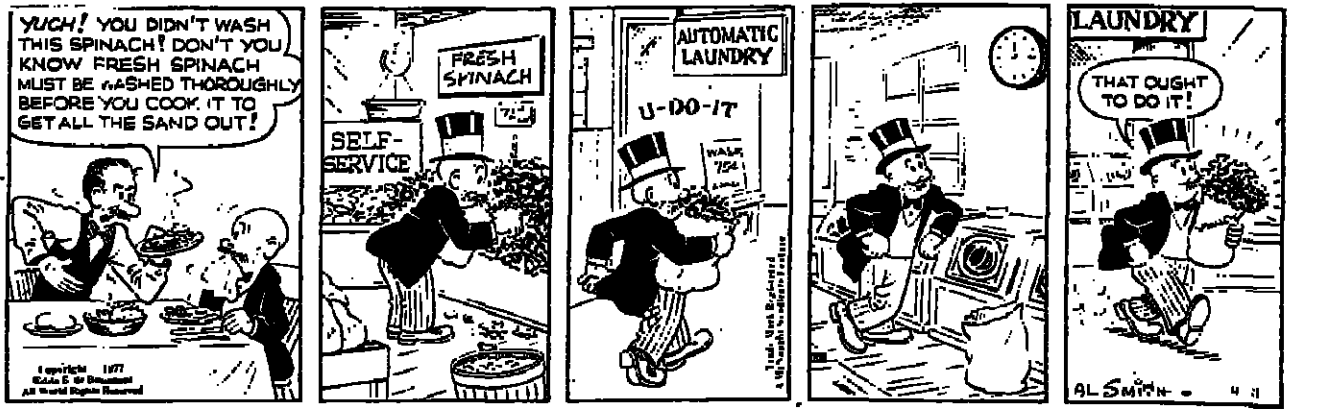
PEANUTS



THE FLINTSTONES



MUTT AND JEFF



JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Scramble these four Jumbles, no letter to each square, to form ordinary words.

HEMITY
H _ _ _ _ _

CORUS
C _ _ _ _ _

NUGMIP
N _ _ _ _ _

BEEKAT
B _ _ _ _ _

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

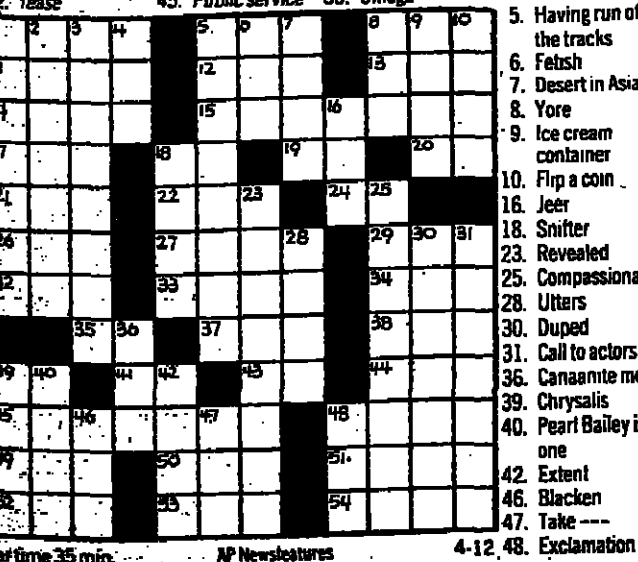
Print the surprise answer here: **OOO**

(Answers tomorrow)

Sunday's Jumbles: **REBEL APRON THEORY BENIGN**
Answer: Give her this kind of ring and save money!—TELEPHONE

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS
24. Exclamation
26. Rose's son
27. Beverages
29. Salad plant
32. Period of time
33. Roman circus
34. Chess pieces
35. Pound
37. Boring
38. Danish island
39. Addition to a letter
41. You and me
43. Like
44. Buft
45. Public service



DOWN
48. Shepherd's crook
49. Criticize
50. English letter
51. Cassini
52. Sacred chest
53. Omega
54. Irish statesman

Solution of Sunday's puzzle
1. Synthetic fabric
2. Despoiler
3. Having three feet
4. Whole
5. Having run off the tracks
6. Fetish
7. Desert in Asia
8. Yore
9. Ice cream container
10. Flip a coin
11. Jeer
12. Snifter
13. Revealed
14. Compassionately
15. Utters
16. Duped
17. Call to actors
18. Canaanite month
19. Chrysalis
20. Pearl Bailey is one
21. Extent
22. Blacken
23. Take
24. Exclamation

Moslem rebel leader will join autonomous Filipino government, says President Marcos

MANILA, April 12 (R). — President Ferdinand Marcos said today that the Moslem rebel leader Dr. Nur Misuari had accepted a place in a provisional government of an autonomous region in the southwestern Philippines.

But how much say the rebels will have in the final settlement depends on a referendum on Sunday in the 13 provinces there.

Acceptance by Dr. Misuari, who is understood to be in Jeddah consulting Islamic Conference representatives, was not immediately confirmed by his movement, the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF). It is, however, in accordance with an undertaking by Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi who last month was mediator of an agreement with President Marcos to end four years of bitter Moslem secessionist revolt in the predominantly Christian Philippines.

Informed sources said it was possible that Dr. Nur Misuari would now return from exile tomorrow or Thursday with Libyan Foreign Affairs Secretary Abdul Salam Tureiki, expected here with other representatives of the Islamic Conference to witness the referendum.

President Marcos, replying to questions in a two-hour broadcast from Zamboanga City — headquarters of the southern command charged with putting down the rebellion — said he had no further details of the response from Dr. Nur Misuari.

The president and Col. Qadhafi reached a compromise agreement last month after direct talks with the MNLF broke down in Libya.

The agreement required a declaration of autonomy for 13 southwestern provinces on Mindanao, Basilan, Tawi, Sulu and Palawan Islands, where most of the country's two-to-four million Moslems live.

Gandhi declares herself responsible for defeat

NEW DELHI, April 12 (AFP). — Former Prime Minister Mrs. Indira Gandhi has accepted full responsibility for the Congress Party's defeat in the Indian general elections.

"So far as I am concerned I should like to make it clear that as one who led the government, I unreservedly own full responsibility for this defeat," she said in a letter to the party President, Dev Kant Borooah made known today.

Mrs. Gandhi wrote to the party chief as the policy-making working committee of the Congress started a meeting here today to discuss the debacle.

Many members blamed Mrs. Gandhi's younger son Mr. Sanjay Gandhi for the setback.

They said the emergency measures, particularly Mr. Gandhi's ruthless birth-control campaign, which produced a number of forcible sterilisations, were the major factor in angering the people.



TOAST TO LEGALITY — A group of members of the Executive Committee of the Spanish Communist Party toasting in Madrid, Saturday, after Premier Adolfo Suarez' government legalised the long-banned political party. (AP wirephoto).

France to go ahead with nuclear policy despite Carter's wishes

PARIS, April 12 (R). — France will tell a conference of nuclear powers meeting in London later this month that it will go ahead with its advanced nuclear technology policy, French officials said today.

The conference, known as the London Nuclear Club, including the United States and the Soviet Union, is due to meet on April 28 and 29 to discuss President Carter's decision to slow down the development of U.S. fast-breeder reactors and nuclear fuel reprocessing programmes.

Mr. Carter said he hoped that Britain, France, West Germany and other countries capable of producing plutonium

would join him in international efforts to avoid the danger of nuclear weapons proliferation.

"France is definitely going ahead with advanced nuclear technology including the construction of fast-breeder reactors," an official said. "Unlike the United States, we have little coal and no oil resources. We must develop nuclear technology to meet our energy needs."

But President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing's government has also pledged that no further exports of reprocessing centres would be permitted.

The French president has set up a watchdog body, the Supreme Council for Nuclear Exports, to supervise France's

herto free-for-all nuclear export policy.

Commenting on a statement by a high-ranking Japanese Foreign Ministry official that France, West Germany and Britain promised the United States before President Carter's

policy statement that they would stop selling reprocessing equipment, the French official simply noted: "Our supreme nuclear council pledged last December that until further notice no further exports of such plants would be permitted."

Owen continues Southern African tour

JOHANNESBURG, April 12 — (Agencies). — British Foreign Secretary Dr. David Owen arrived in Mozambique from Tanzania today on the second leg of his five-day Southern African tour, Mozambique Radio, monitored here reported.

Arriving in Maputo, he said his tour was "aimed at finding common grounds between all parties involved" in Southern Africa.

He was met at Maputo Airport by Mozambique Foreign Minister Joaquim Chissano, the radio said.

It gave no details of his programme in Maputo.

He was due to travel on later tonight to Cape Town where he will have talks tomorrow.

OWEN TO VISIT EGYPT, SYRIA

LONDON, April 12 (R). — Britain's Foreign Secretary, Dr. David Owen, will pay official visits to Egypt and Syria this month for talks with their leaders on the Arab-Israeli dispute and other major developments, the Foreign Office announced today.

Dr. Owen, who became foreign secretary in late February, will visit Egypt from April 24 to 26 and Syria from April 26 to 27.

British officials said Dr. Owen expected to visit Israel for discussions in early summer after the general election there in May.

This will be Dr. Owen's first visit to the Middle East since becoming foreign secretary.

row with Mr. John Vorster and Mr. Ian Smith, Prime Ministers of South Africa and Rhodesia, on the Rhodesian problem.

The British minister arrived in Dar Es Salaam yesterday for talks with President Julius Nyerere and Mr. Robert Mugabe, joint leader with Mr. Joshua Nkomo of the Zimbabwe Patriotic Front nationalist faction.

Diplomatic sources in Cape Town said today the odds are stacked against Dr. Owen achieving a breakthrough on his Rhodesia peace mission.

The sources said that although Dr. Owen received a measure of encouragement yesterday from Tanzanian President Nyerere, he also got apparent rebuffs from both ends of the Rhodesian political spectrum.

Nationalist leader Mr. Mugabe, said only a protracted and bloody war would solve the Rhodesian problem.

And in Cape Town, Rhodesia's white minority leader Mr.

Smith said he did not expect much to result from his talks with Dr. Owen tomorrow. Mr. Smith said the British minister had "absolutely no practical experience" of the Rhodesian problem.

While Dr. Owen was having talks today with Mozambique President Samora Machel, diplomatic sources in Cape Town said the British initiative was showing signs of faltering.

The sources said that Mr. Mugabe's Zimbabwe Patriotic Front guerrillas were launching attacks on Rhodesia from bases in Mozambique and called that President Machel himself had led the Frelimo armed struggle that led to independence for the former Portuguese colony.

The sources said there was little chance of either Mr. Vorster or Mr. Smith accepting an Anglo-American plan carried by Dr. Owen which calls for new constitution to draw up constitution for an independent Rhodesia.

Saudi Arabia reportedly wants Red Sea summit

KUWAIT, April 12 (AFP). — Saudi Arabia is trying to arrange a summit conference of seven countries bordering the Red Sea following the strengthening of Israeli military forces on islets in that sea, the Kuwait newspaper Al Watan reported today.

The purpose of the conference would be to improve security of shipping, Al Watan stated. The participants would be Somalia and six Arab countries.

tries: Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Jordan, Sudan and North and South Yemen.

Saudi Foreign Minister Sa'ad bin Abdulaziz is now making a tour of Arab countries on the Red Sea. He already has been to Somalia and the two Yemen.

Israeli forces have been reportedly said to be present on Ethiopia's islets in the Red Sea to assure security of Israel's supply from Iran and of Israel shipping to Africa.

Shah urges international nuclear meet to step up anti-proliferation effort

TEHRAN, April 12 (R). — The Shah of Iran has called for a fundamental breakthrough in general disarmament to prevent a proliferation of nuclear weapons.

In an inaugural message read at an international nuclear conference Sunday he said the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) had two other paramount and complementary goals — the transfer of technology and general disarmament.

"Undoubtedly, the single most important determinant of non-proliferation is a fundamental breakthrough towards

general disarmament and what we can collectively achieve in this vital domain," the Shah said.

"Otherwise, it is doubtful whether mankind can successfully achieve its non-proliferation ideals through negative and discriminatory attitudes."

Observers believed this was a direct criticism of the United States which has been hesitating to build nuclear power plants in Iran mainly over the question of safeguards.

In the next 17 years Iran plans to build 23 such plants

with a total capacity of 23,000 megawatts. West Germany is building two 1,200 megawatt plants in southern Iran, due for completion in the early 1980s.

About 500 scientists from over 40 countries are attending the five-day conference being held in a tented town at the 2,500-year-old Persepolis ruins near the southern city of Shiraz.

The conference is aimed at promoting the transfer of nuclear power generating technology from the "haves" to the "have nots," according to conference sources.

The Shah reiterated to the conference and in his reply to a message sent him by U.S. President Jimmy Carter, that Iran was committed to the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

He told Mr. Carter: "I will continue to cooperate with all the nations of the world, assure the peaceful application of nuclear energy for the benefit of man."

Prime Minister Amir Abolmohsen, who also addressed the conference, said that he considered himself a "conscious object" to nuclear weapons proliferation.

He said Iran was against the acquisition of nuclear weapons because it had signed the Non-Proliferation Treaty, and voluntarily opted for peaceful uses of enriched rather than natural uranium.

Iran had also advocated nuclear free zone in the Middle East and was prepared to accept improved controls and safeguards under appropriate international auspices, he said.

WORLD NEWS BRIEFS

* TEL AVIV, April 12 (R). — Canadian Defence Minister Barnett Danson said today he believed the Syrians would extend the mandate for United Nations forces on the Golan Heights beyond its deadline at the end of May. Mr. Danson arrived here on Sunday as part of a tour of Canadian forces serving with U.N. units in the Middle East. He visited Syria before arriving in Israel and leaves tomorrow for Egypt.

* KUWAIT, April 12 (R). — The Kuwait government today postponed a decision on whether to set up a committee to revise the constitution. Kuwait's ruler, Sheikh Sabah Al Salem Al Sabah, said after last August's dissolution of the National Assembly, the only elected parliament on the Arab side of the Gulf, that the constitution must be revised in the light of the experience of the past 10 years.

* KUWAIT, April 12 (R). — The Deputy Speaker of the Palestine National Council (PNC), Salim Al Zaanoun, said here that Israel might launch a fifth Arab-Israeli war as a way out of an internal political crisis. Mr. Zaanoun, who is also the representative in Kuwait of Fateh, the largest Palestinian group within the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), was speaking at a lecture here last night. He said he saw little likelihood of an early resumption of the Geneva Middle East peace conference.

* SAN'A, North Yemen, April 12 (AFP). — A large crowd including the head of state, Maj. Ibrahim A. Hamdi, attended the funeral here today of former Prime Minister Abdullah Al Hajri, who was shot dead by a gunman in a London street on Sunday. The body had arrived from London yesterday, with those of his wife and the charge d'affaires at the North Yemeni Embassy in London, Mr. Abdullah Ali Al Hammani, who were also gunned down.

Richard Nixon intended to normalise ties with China

NEW YORK, April 12 (R). — Mr. Richard Nixon told Chinese leaders in 1972 he wanted to normalise relations with China if re-elected to a second term, according to a report in the New York Times yesterday quoting Carter administration officials.

The Times, in its front page report, said Mr. Nixon's intention, unknown until now, was never carried out because of the Watergate scandals. It added that Carter administration officials learned of it only in the last weeks while reviewing top secret Nixon administration documents in preparing a China policy of their own.

The paper quoted officials as saying the statement by Mr.

Nixon was recorded in a memorandum of conversation with Chinese Prime Minister Chou En-lai during the former president's first China visit in February, 1972.

The officials stressed that statement appeared to be a statement of intent, not a binding agreement or a formal understanding.

Normalisation with China would include formal diplomatic recognition by the United States and the dismantling of America's defence treaty with Taiwan.

The Times quoted the officials as saying Mr. Nixon never followed up his intention because of fears of alienating conservative members of Congress, whose support he needed.

ECONOMIC AND BUSINESS NEWS

OPEC may discuss end to price split soon

KUWAIT, April 12 (R). — The world's major oil exporting countries might hold a "consultative meeting" shortly to discuss ways of ending the two-tier oil price system. Kuwait's chief government spokesman Abdul Aziz Hussein said here on Sunday.

Mr. Hussein said contacts were under way to prepare for the meeting, likely to be held before July 12, the scheduled date for the next regular ministerial meeting of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).

Mr. Hussein did not give any details about the level at which the meeting was likely to be held, or its site.

Kuwait, whose oil production has been seriously affected by the dual price system which came into force on Jan. 1, was believed earlier to be seeking a summit meeting of the heads of the 13 OPEC states, observers said.

Extensive efforts earlier this year failed to reconcile the OPEC majority with Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) who refused to go along with the majority decision to raise prices by 15 per

cent in two stages this year.

The majority increased their prices by 10 per cent on Jan. 1, but Saudi Arabia and the UAE put theirs up by 5 per cent only.

Observers said a consultative meeting was not likely to take decision binding on the OPEC states.

Oil Minister Abdul Muttaleb Al Kazimi told reporters Kuwait hoped current efforts would restore OPEC oil price unity.

He said Kuwait would attend any meeting at whatever level called for this purpose.

Kuwaiti oil production this month was expected to average 1.7 million barrels a day, the same as in March, he said.

Oil production in Kuwait fell to about 1.3 million barrels a day during the first two months of the year compared with last year's average of 2.1 million barrels. The severe winter in Europe and the United States was believed to be partly responsible for the increased demand for Kuwaiti oil in March and April, observers said.

Israeli seamen begin strike

TEL AVIV, April 12 (R). — The Israeli Merchant Seamen's Union today began an indefinite strike in support of higher wages.

The union said it took the step, which was not authorised by the Histadrut trade union federation, because of the higher salary scales promised merchant marine officers, who have been on a partial strike for about a week.

The seamen got a 20 per cent wage hike in January but said the proposal made to the officers exceeded 30 per cent.

The union say they have informed Israeli shops abroad of the strike, but the shipment of citrus was not immediately affected since the growers are using mainly foreign ships.

U.S. textile firm calls for action against foreign imports

WASHINGTON, April 12 (AFP). — American companies are suffering "extensive damage" as a result of huge textile imports, the firm Burlington Industries said yesterday in a full-page advertisement in the New York Times calling for government action.

"We are seeing massive market disruption in the U.S. textile and apparel industries because of mushrooming growth of imports, which has caused extensive damage to member companies and their employees," said the advertisement, placed by one of the sector's largest groups.

It declared that in the past 10 years, textile imports had

risen 71 per cent whereas the U.S. market had grown by only 28 per cent.

Low wages were blamed by Burlington Industries for low-priced foreign goods reaching the market. The company proposed two amendments to the Multi-Fiber Agreement (MFA):

(1) "Textile and apparel imports must not grow at a rate greater than that of the domestic market."

(2) "A mechanism must be established for timely monitoring of the levels of specific import categories. And where such imports severely impact the industry, no overall quota growth would be allowed in the next year."

WALL STREET REPORT

The stock market posted a sharp and broad advance Tuesday as the industrial average rose more than 13 points. The average gained as much as 14.5 before losing some ground during the last hour.

Gainers led losers at the bell by a very wide margin: 1,194 to 306.

Most groups of shares closed on a firm note and blue chip issues attracted a lot of buying. General Electric rose 1-3/4 to 51-1/8 and International Paper also gained 1-3/4 to 58, while General Dynamics pumped 2-1/8 to 56-1/8. Sony was again on the most active list and gained 3/8 to 10-3/8.

At the close, the industrial average shows at 937.16, a gain of 13.06 points; Transp at 229.69, a gain of 3.99; utilities at 108.6, a gain of 0.95. 23,760,000 shares changed hands, of which 3,970,000 during the last hour.

LONDON MARKET REPORT

Government bonds moved lower Tuesday reflecting fears that Friday's retail price index may show a further rise, dealers said.

Falls ranged to 7/8 point but thin conditions accentuated the decline, they added.

Equities firmed slightly on small buying interest and absence of selling.

At 15:00 the F.T. index was 3.8 up at 406.8. Overall trading was slack.

Gold shares firmed modestly helped by the higher bullion price. Dollar stocks gained with Wall Street and Canadians were mixed.

Oils moved ahead under the influence of Wall Street. In shipbuilding, Vosper was helped by the annual report. Motors, including British Leyland, strengthened. Banks, amongst them with Hong Kong and Shanghai, firmed a little but insurances and properties put on a mixed showing. In Japanese issues, Canon, Honda and Takeda made headway but Hitachi retreated several points.

Price of gold closed in London Tuesday at \$149.50/oz.

ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

* LONDON, April 12 (AFP). — Heathrow Airport, serving London, was threatened with paralysis when shop stewards of British Airways voted today to have all maintenance workers strike. The airport already has been badly disorganised for 10 days by a strike of night maintenance men. The decision to extend the work stoppage to day maintenance staff was made to protest against the discharge of 1,250 night staff on Thursday. Shop stewards voted 175 to five in favour of a total maintenance strike. The vote has to be ratified by a general meeting of workers later in the day.

* RIYADH, April 12 (R). — Prince Turki Ibn Abdul Aziz, Deputy Minister of Aviation and Defence, opened Sunday a new airport near Al Jouf, near the Jordanian and Iraqi borders, the official Saudi Press Agency reported. It cost 92 million riyals (\$26 million) to build.

* SUVA, Fiji, April 12 (R). — Developing countries from Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific (ACP) asked the European Common Market here today for firm decisions about trade between them. The request was made at a meeting between Fijian Prime Minister Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara, president of the ACP Council of Ministers, and Britain's Secretary of State for Trade, Mr. Edmund Dell, president of the EEC Council of Ministers. The meeting followed strong criticism of the EEC yesterday by Mr. Ratu Mara, who said the Common Market had adopted an ungenerous and unyielding attitude to Third World exports.

* RIYADH, April 12 (R). — Saudi Arabia will advance Indonesia a \$50 million loan for road building projects, a top Central Bank official said here yesterday. Dr. Mahdoun Jalal, Vice President of the Saudi Arabian Monetary Agency (SAMA), told newsmen after meeting an Indonesian delegation that the aid agreement will be signed at the end of May.

* NEW DELHI, April 12 (AFP). — The Indian parliament has approved the plan for a state takeover of the Calcutta installations and distribution network. The government reached an agreement with the U.S. oil group on Dec. 30 under which the Indian state will pay \$130 million compensation.

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